

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A composition comprising:
  - a) at least one hydrocarbon-substituted carboxylic acid anhydride or the alkali salt thereof;
  - 5        b) at least one aliphatic acid amide;
  - c) caustic soda;
  - d) at least one C<sub>12</sub> or higher fatty alcohol;
  - e) at least one C<sub>10</sub> or lower alcohol cosolvent;
  - f) at least one preservative; and
  - 10       g) water.

2. The composition of claim 1, wherein hydrocarbon-substitution of the carboxylic acid anhydride or salt thereof comprises an alpha olefin.

- 15       3. The composition of claim 1, wherein hydrocarbon-substitution of the carboxylic acid anhydride or salt thereof is with a substituent selected from polyethylene, polypropylene, polyisopropylene, polybutylene, polyisobutylene, an oligomer of 1-octene, an oligomer of 1-decene, an oligomer of 1-dodecene, a comonomer thereof, a copolymer thereof, or mixtures thereof.

- 20       4. The composition of claim 1, wherein the aliphatic acid amide has an aliphatic carbon chain length of C<sub>10</sub> and above.

5. The composition of claim 1, wherein the aliphatic acid amide comprises oleoyl sarcosine.

6. The composition of claim 1, wherein the aliphatic acid amide comprises an oleic acid amide of sarcosine.

7. The composition of claim 1, wherein the aliphatic acid amide comprises a linear carboxylic acid amide.

8. The composition of claim 1, wherein the caustic soda is 10 to 90 weight percent solids in water.

9. The composition of claim 1, wherein the caustic soda is about 50 weight percent solids in water.

10. The composition of claim 1, wherein the fatty alcohol comprises a  $C_{12}$  or longer alkyl carbon chain.

11. The composition of claim 1, wherein the fatty alcohol comprises a mixture of substantially linear fatty alcohols of  $C_{20}$ ,  $C_{22}$ , and  $C_{24}$ .

12. The composition of claim 1, wherein the fatty alcohol comprises a  $C_{20}$  alcohol.

13. The composition of claim 1, wherein the fatty alcohol comprises of at least one alkyl alcohol with a carbon chain of C<sub>12</sub> or longer.

14. The composition of claim 1, wherein the fatty alcohol is a blend comprising substantially linear fatty alcohols of C<sub>20</sub>, C<sub>22</sub>, and C<sub>24</sub>.

15. The composition of claim 1, wherein the alcohol cosolvent comprises an alcohol with a chain length of C<sub>10</sub> or less.

16. The composition of claim 1, wherein the alcohol cosolvent comprises butylpropanol.

17. The composition of claim 1, wherein the alcohol cosolvent is butylpropanol.

18. The composition of claim 1, wherein the alcohol cosolvent is butylethanol.

19. The composition of claim 1, wherein the alcohol cosolvent comprises a mixture of alcohols, wherein each alcohol has a chain length of C<sub>10</sub> or less.

20. The composition of claim 1, wherein the alcohol cosolvent comprises pentylpropanol.

21. The composition of claim 1, wherein the alcohol cosolvent comprises propylpropanol.

22. The composition of claim 1, wherein the alcohol cosolvent comprises 2-ethyl  
5 hexanol.

23. The composition of claim 1, wherein the preservative is isothiazolinone.

10 24. The composition of claim 1, wherein said composition comprises:  
a. from about 10 to about 30 weight percent of a poly-alpha-olefin substituted  
poly(maleic anhydride);  
b. from about 3 to about 10 weight percent of the oleic acid amide of sarcosine;  
c. from about 3 to about 10 weight percent of caustic soda, 50% solids in water;  
15 d. from about 1 to about 5 weight percent of a blend of C<sub>20</sub>-C<sub>22</sub> fatty alcohols;  
e. from about 10 to about 20 weight percent butylpropanol;  
f. from about 0.05 to about 1.50 weight percent preservative; and  
g. from about 20 to about 80 weight percent water, all based on the weight of the  
composition.

20 25. The composition of claim 24, wherein:  
said poly-alpha-olefin substituted poly(maleic anhydride) is present at about 20 weight  
percent;

said oleic acid amide of sarcosine is present at about 5.9 weight percent;

25 said caustic soda is present at about 4.8 weight percent;

said blend of C<sub>20</sub>-C<sub>22</sub> fatty alcohols is present at about 2.7 weight percent;

said butylpropanol is present at about 14.0 weight percent;

said preservative is present at about 0.10 weight percent; and

said water is present at about 52.50 weight percent.

5

26. A method for imparting water repellency to leather, said method comprising treating said leather with the composition of claim 1 to impart said water repellency to the leather.

10

27. The method of claim 26, wherein the leather is contacted with the composition of claim 1 while the leather is in the wet blue stage of leather treatment.

15

28. The method of claim 26, wherein the hydrocarbon-substituted carboxylic acid anhydride or the alkali salt thereof is an alkali salt of poly-alpha-olefin substituted poly(maleic anhydride) or an alkali salt of a styrene-maleic acid copolymer; and wherein the aliphatic acid amide is the oleic acid amide of sarcosine.

29. Treated hide comprising hide treated with the composition of claim 1.

20

30. Treated leather comprising leather treated with the composition of claim 1.

31. A leather-treating composition comprising:

at least about 10 weight percent of a poly-alpha-olefin substituted poly(maleic anhydride);

at least about 3 weight percent of the oleic acid amide of sarcosine;

at least about 3 weight percent of caustic soda, delivered as 50% sodium hydroxide solids in water;

at least about 1 weight percent of a blend of C<sub>20</sub>-C<sub>22</sub> fatty alcohols;

at least about 10 weight percent butylpropanol;

at least about 0.05 weight percent preservative; and

at least about 20 weight percent water, all based on the total weight percent of the composition

32. A composition comprising:

at least about 10 weight percent of a sodium salt of poly-alpha-olefin substituted poly(maleic anhydride);

at least about 3 weight percent of the oleic acid amide of sarcosine;

at least about 1 weight percent of a blend of C<sub>20</sub>-C<sub>22</sub> fatty alcohols;

at least about 10 weight percent butylpropanol;

at least about 0.05 weight percent preservative; and

at least about 20 weight percent water.

33. A composition comprising:

at least about 10 weight percent of a potassium salt of poly-alpha-olefin substituted poly(maleic anhydride);

at least about 3 weight percent of the oleic acid amide of sarcosine;  
at least about 1 weight percent of a blend of C<sub>20</sub>-C<sub>22</sub> fatty alcohols;  
at least about 10 weight percent butylpropanol;  
at least about 0.05 weight percent preservative; and  
5 at least about 20 weight percent water.

34. A leather-treating composition comprising at least one hydrocarbon-substituted  
carboxylic acid anhydride or the alkali salt thereof.

10 35. The leather-treating composition of claim 34, further comprising at least one  
aliphatic acid amide or the alkali salt thereof.

36. The composition of claim 34, wherein the alkali of the alkali salt is sodium or  
potassium.

15 37. A leather-treating composition comprising an aqueous solution of an alkali salt of  
an alphaolefin substituted-maleic acid copolymer or an alkali salt of a styrene-maleic acid  
copolymer.

20 38. The leather-treating composition of claim 37, further comprising at least one  
aliphatic acid amide or the alkali salt thereof.

39. The composition of claim 37, wherein the alkali of the alkali salt is sodium or potassium.

40. Leather or hide treated by the composition of claim 34.

41. Leather or hide treated by the composition of claim 35.

42. Leather or hide treated by the composition of claim 36.

43. Leather or hide treated by the composition of claim 37.

44. Leather or hide treated by the composition of claim 38.

45. Leather or hide treated by the composition of claim 39.

46. A leather treatment composition comprising an aqueous solution of a) an alkali salt of an alphaolefin substituted-maleic acid copolymer or an alkali salt of a styrene-maleic acid copolymer, and b) an oleic acid amide of sarcosine.